

CONSUMER PROTECTION



WISCONSIN
DEPARTMENT OF
AGRICULTURE,
TRADE AND
CONSUMER
PROTECTION

REGIONAL OFFICES

Southeast

10930 W. Potter Road, Suite C
Milwaukee, WI 53226-3450
414-266-1231

Northeast

Suite 146-A
200 N. Jefferson Street
Green Bay, WI 54301-5198
920-448-5110

Northwest

3610 Oakwood Hills Parkway
Eau Claire, WI 54701-7754
715-839-3848

Southwest

2811 Agriculture Drive
Madison, WI 53708-8911
608-224-4960

News

October 2003 Edition

Dear Wisconsin Children's Safety Advocates:

In September 2003, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission issued a total of **eight (8) recalls and one (1) advisory relating to products affecting children.** Attached is a summary of the releases identifying the product, problem and what should be done with the recalled product.

We have found that not all of the recalls are picked up by the news media as they occur. This monthly summary will give you the opportunity to review all of the children's product safety recalls for the past two months.

If you are interested in a complete text of the recall, double click on the hyperlink at the end of the recall description. This will take you to the CPSC website and the actual recall notice. If you have other product safety questions you may call our toll free number at **(800) 422-7128**. You should leave your name, your organization's name and a phone number.

Following is a listing of the 8 "KIDS" recalls and 1 advisory by title and identification number (when available):

- ❖ L.M. Becker & Co., Inc. is recalling Toy Necklaces. #03-178
- ❖ Swimways Corp. is recalling Swim Trainers. #03-179
- ❖ SunTech Enterprises Inc. is recalling Baby Walkers. #03-182
- ❖ Firm is recalling Bottles Water with Sport Caps. #03-185
- ❖ Simon & Schuster is recalling Children's Books. #03-186
- ❖ Apothecary Products Inc. is recalling "Comforts" Pacifiers. #03-187
- ❖ Graco Children's Products announce New Safety Instructions to Prevent Injuries with Portable Play Yards with Raised Changing Tables. #03-189
- ❖ CPSC announces Investigation Results of Yo-Yo Waterballs. #03-190
- ❖ October is Window Covering Safety Month – Consumers Urged to Repair or Replace Old Window Coverings. #03-200

We hope you find this service of value and that it assists you to:

"KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE!"

KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE

Release Number: 03-178 L.M. Becker & Co. Inc., of Kimberly, Wis. Is voluntarily recalling about 1.4 million toy necklaces. The necklaces consist of a 10-inch black cord with a 7/8-inch-diameter gray metal pendant. The metal pendant has assorted symbols on one side. Vending machines in malls, discount department and grocery stores nationwide from March 2002 through April 2003 for about 50 cents. The necklaces were manufactured in India.

Problem: The necklace's pendant contains high levels of lead, posing a risk of poisoning to young children.

What to do: Consumers should contact the company for instructions on how to get a refund. Call L.M. Becker & Co. Inc. at (888) 869-6569 between 8:30 and 4:30 CT Monday through Friday, or go to the firm's Web site at www.toynjoy.com



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03178.html>

Release Number: 03-179 Swimways Corp., of Virginia Beach, Va is voluntarily recalling about 3,400 "Sandy Claws" Swim Trainers. The recalled "Sandy Claws" Swim Trainer is a red and yellow colored fabric crab with eight stuffed legs and two eyes covering a styrofoam buoyancy float. Black straps are attached to the side seams to fasten around a child. Printed on the underside of the crab float are the words, "Swim Ways" and "CAUTION: This is not a lifesaving device. Do not leave child unattended while in use." Specialty pool and toy stores nationwide and Internet retailers sold the flotation devices from January 2003 through July 2003 for about \$12. The swim trainers were manufactured in China.

Problem: The nylon body strap on the swim trainer can detach or tear from the flotation device and release a child into water, posing a serious drowning hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should stop using the swim trainers immediately and return them to the company for a full refund. Swimways will provide consumers with a self-addressed envelope to return the product. Consumers should contact Swimways at (800) 889-7946 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the company's Web site at www.swimways.com



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03179.html>

Release Number: 03-182 SunTech Enterprises Inc., City of Commerce, Calif. Is voluntarily recalling about 4,100 "Sun Kids" and "Happy Baby" Baby Walkers. The recalled baby walkers are made with a plastic frame supported by six or eight wheels on the bottom. The walkers are blue, pink or bright green with a padded seat and an activity tray. "SUN KIDS" or "HAPPY BABY" labels appear on some of the walkers. Small retailers and flea markets in Texas and California sold the walkers from November 2002 through April 2003 for between \$15 and \$25. The baby walkers were manufactured in Taiwan.

Problem: The walkers will fit through a standard doorway and are not designed to stop at the edge of a step. Babies using these walkers can be seriously injured or killed if they fall down stairs.

What to do: Return to the store where purchased or contact the firm to receive a refund. SunTech Enterprises Inc. at (866) 992-5766 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. PT Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03182.html>

Release Number: 03-185 CCDA Waters LLC, of Atlanta, Ga. is voluntarily recalling about 3.2 million bottle of water with Push-Pull Sports Cap in 8 oz., 8.5 oz. and .33 liter bottle sizes. Bottled water with the affected push-pull sports caps was sold under the brand names Dannon Fluoride to Go, Pure American, Enon Springs, Alhambra Junior Sport Drinking Water and Sparkletts Junior Sport Drinking Water. The bottled water was sold as singles and multi-packs in 8-oz., 8.5-oz, and .33-liter sizes. The bottled water with this sports cap was sold at a variety of retail outlets including gas stations, grocery, convenience, mass merchandise and drug stores from March, 2002 through September, 2003, for between \$0.59 for a single bottle and \$3.29 for multi-packs. The bottled water was manufactured in the United States.

Problem: When pulled to open, the drinking spout on the sports cap can unexpectedly come off, posing a choking hazard for young children.

What to do: Consumers should take the bottled water with the sports cap away from children immediately and return it to the store where purchased for a refund. For more information, consumers can contact the CCDA Water Consumer Line toll-free at (800) 322-4616 between 9 am and 5 pm Eastern Time, Monday through Friday.

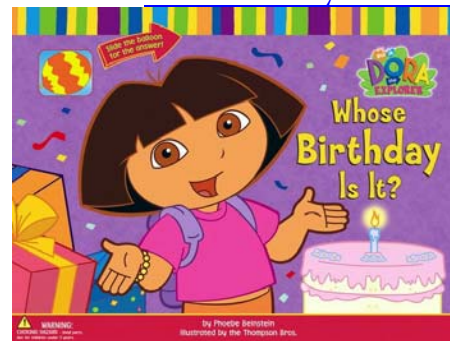


- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03185.html>

Release Number: 03-186 Simon & Schuster Inc., of New York, N.Y. is voluntarily recalling about 26,000 Dora the Explorer Children's Board Book. The heavy-cardboard book has "Whose Birthday Is It?" printed on the cover in yellow letters. Dora the Explorer cartoon characters are pictured on each page. A cutout in the top left corner of book has a small plastic replica of a balloon attached. The yellow and orange balloon is used as a slide to reveal answers to questions in the book. Discount department stores and bookstores nationwide during August 2003 for about \$10. The books were manufactured in China.

Problem: A plastic replica of a balloon attached to the book can detach, posing a choking hazard to young children.

What to do: Consumers should take these books away from young children immediately and contact Simon & Schuster at the Consumer Contact number indicated below to receive a replacement book. Call Simon & Schuster toll-free at (800) 223-2336 between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. ET Monday through Friday or visit the firm's Web site at www.simonsayskids.com



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03186.html>

Release Number: 03-187 Apothecary Products Inc., of Burnsville, Minn. Is voluntarily recalling about 154,000 "Comforts" pacifiers. The pacifiers are available in both silicone and latex formulations in the following colors: powder blue, red, purple, and pink. The name "Kroger" appears on the package, along with the words "Pacifiers," "Latex," "Silicone," "0-6 months," or "6-18 months." The model numbers are located on the back of each package and are the last five digits of the UPC code:

35826 35827 35828 35829 Many Kroger-owned stores from August 2002 through August 2003 for about \$3.50 to \$5. The pacifiers were manufactured in China.

Problem: These pacifiers fail federal safety tests, come apart, and can pose a choking hazard to infants and small children.

What to do: Return the pacifiers to the store where purchased for a full refund. Contact Apothecary Products at (866) 274-7956 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. CT Monday through Friday, or call The Kroger Co. toll-free at (800) 632-6900 between 8 a.m. and 9 p.m. CT Monday through Friday.



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03187.html>

Release Number: 03-189 Graco Children's Products Inc., of Exton, Pa., is providing new instructions for about 538,000 "Pack 'n Play" portable play yards with raised changing tables. Only "Pack 'n Play" portable play yards with raised changing tables are part of this recall. They also are sold with an infant bassinet. "GRACO" and "Pack 'n Play" are written on the side of the play yard. These play yards have model numbers 2016, 35235, or model numbers that begin with 9531 or 9533. The last three digits of the model number will vary. The model number can be found on a label on the white plastic center cone under the play yards. "MADE IN CHINA" also is written on the bottom label. Models 2016, 35235, 9531 and 9533 that are currently sold at retail and that have green stickers on the boxes, indicating that the unit has been modified, are not recalled. Discount, department and juvenile product stores nationwide sold these portable play yards from October 2001 through September 2003 for between \$99 and \$119.

Problem: When children are placed in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place, they can crawl under and lift the table up. If this occurs, a child's head and neck can become trapped between the changing table and the play yard rail, causing a strangulation hazard. The recall is designed to warn consumers

of this hazard, and to provide warning labels to affix to the changing tables.

What to do: Consumers should never place a child in these portable play yards when the changing table is still in place. Consumers should immediately contact Graco to receive a free warning label to be affixed to the changing table. Consumers can contact Graco at (800) 233-1546 anytime, or visit the firm's Web site at www.gracobaby.com



- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03189.html>

Release Number: 03-190 The U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission believes there is a low but potential risk of strangulation from the yo-yo water ball toy. The Commission has received 186 reports of incidents in which the yo-yo ball toy's cord wrapped around a child's neck. In all cases, a parent or child successfully removed the cord from the child's neck. Although there were no lasting injuries, seven cases reported broken blood vessels affecting eyes, eyelids, cheeks, neck, scalp or the area behind the ears. CPSC staff realizes that the reported incidents are uncomfortable and anxiety-provoking events for children and adults. However, based on information currently available, the CPSC staff has concluded that the toy poses a low risk of strangulation, especially for younger children. Based on the pattern of incidents, the number of products involved, the low likelihood of strangulation, and the technical staff's assessment of the risk of injury presented by the product, the yo-yo water ball toy does not meet congressionally mandated standards for product recall.

The Commission also investigated reports of potential toxicity from the liquid inside the toy and flammability from a flame test of the yo-yo ball toy. CPSC staff found no toxicity or flammability concerns.

Based on information from industry sources, CPSC believes that over the last year,

there have been approximately 11-15 million yo-yo ball toys distributed in the U.S., selling for between \$1 and \$5. The toys are made of rubber-like material and consist of a liquid-filled ball with a stretchy cord that has a small finger loop at the end. The cord is highly elastic and can be stretched to more than three feet.

CPSC is aware that some major retailers (for example, Toys R Us, Walgreen's, and Saks) have unilaterally stopped selling the yo-yo ball toys.

Problem: The stretchy cord of the toy can wrap around a child's neck when the child swings the toy overhead like a lasso.

What to do: Parents who are concerned about this risk could, in addition to closely supervising the use of this toy, cut the cord off the toy (leaving a squishy toy ball for children to play with) or throw the toy away.

Sorry No Picture Available

- <http://www.cpsc.gov/cpscpub/prerel/prhtml03/03190.html>

Release Number: 03-200 October has been designated "Window Covering Safety Month" by CPSC and the industry coalition. U.S. consumers are encouraged to repair or replace window coverings purchased before 2001 and to keep all window cords and chains out of the reach of young children. Through point-of-sale signage in retail stores, advertising circulars in newspapers and other marketing means, consumers will be alerted to the availability of free repair kits and strongly urged to repair or replace older window coverings.

Since 1991, CPSC has received reports of 174 strangulation deaths involving cords and chains on window coverings. 152 deaths involved the outer-pull cords, which raise and lower the blind. 22 deaths involved the inner-cords, which run through the window blind slats.

Outer-pull cord deaths typically involve children ranging in age from 8-months to 6-years. Inner-cord deaths typically involve children ranging in age from 9-months to 17-months who are placed in cribs or playpens located within reach of window coverings. In all cases, the children became inadvertently entangled and died from strangulation.

In recent years, window-covering manufacturers have produced redesigned products to reduce cord hazards. These redesigns

have reduced the opportunity to create hazardous loops in the cords or chains. The redesigns have also featured permanently attached tie-down anchors and built-in cord stops.

It is important to note: although redesigned newer window coverings and repaired older window coverings reduce the risk of strangulation - they have not fully eliminated the hazard. Long dangling window cords and chains still pose a strangulation hazard for young children. Consumers should never tie window blind cords or chains together because the knot creates a new loop, which could cause a young child to become entangled.

During the month of October, CPSC urges consumers to carefully inspect the cords and chains of all of their window coverings. Consumers are also encouraged to consider cordless coverings and other alternative window coverings, which have been recently introduced throughout the country by manufacturers. Consumers with older window coverings are urged to repair or replace their window coverings.

Consumers possessing window coverings purchased before 2001 can obtain a free repair kit from the Window Covering Safety Council's web site at www.windowcoverings.org or by calling 1-800-504-4636. Individuals can also visit www.cpsc.gov to learn more about window covering safety. A list of firms and organizations participating in Window Covering Safety Month is attached.

The following are window-covering safety tips offered by the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission:

Move all cribs, beds, furniture and toys away from windows and window cords, preferably to another wall.

Keep all window cords out of the reach of children. Make sure that tasseled pull cords are short, and that continuous-loop cords are permanently anchored to the floor or wall.

Lock cords into position when lowering horizontal coverings or shades to prevent inner-cord hazards.

Repair window coverings, corded shades and draperies manufactured before 2001 with retrofit cord-repair devices, or replace them with today's safer products.

Consider installing cordless window coverings in children's bedrooms and play areas.

If you would like to sign up for the Keep Your Kids Safe newsletter, please visit our webpage at

<http://datcp.state.wi.us> or contact Michelle Reinen at (608) 224-4988 or michelle.reinen@datcp.state.wi.us. Please be sure to provide your name, telephone number and e-mail address.

If you have any questions or want to file a complaint regarding an unsafe product, contact:

WI Bureau of Consumer Protection,
Regulation & Safety Section
1-800-422-7128 (toll free in Wisconsin)
or (608) 224-4988